

**IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN OREDO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE.**

BY

**EGHAREVBA Ikponmwoosa Glory
SSC1713291**

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CERTIFICATION

We certify that **EGHAREVBA Ikponmwosa Glory**, with matriculation number **SSC1713291**, carried out this research work to fulfill the award of Degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in the Department of Social Work, University of Benin.

DR. (BARR.) I. YUSUF
Project Supervisor

DR. SUNDAY IBOBOR
Head of Department

Date _____

Date _____

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated most specially to God Almighty who gave the divine wisdom, strength, provision, his protection and guidance which he bestowed on me during the course of my academic programme.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines impact of domestic violence against women in Egor local government area, Benin City, Edo state in conducting the study, a sample size of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents were randomly selected from the population. The survey design was adopted for this study. To collect the needed data and information, a questionnaire was designed in line with the research questions. The method of data collection included the questionnaire, in-depth interview and secondary records which essentially included documents relating to the impact of unemployment on youth restiveness. Data were analyzed by means of tables, frequency distribution and percentages. From the findings, it was revealed that inequality (superiority of male sex over females) is a cause of domestic violence. Also, it was revealed that domestic violence against women reduces the participation of women in the society. It was revealed that stereotyping (preference and dominance of the male sex over the female sex) which is present in some culture is a reason which exposes women to domestic violence while 62% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question. Also, it was revealed that violence has a socio-economic impact on the women in Egor. From the findings, it was concludes that domestic violence is prevalent in various nations at an alarming rate. Women are the sufferers and are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their home by partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their brothers and parents. The study therefore made the following recommendations that There is a need of recognition at the national level of the issue and consistent follow-up should be made mandatory. There should be enough educational programs in all societies and cultures, both for women and men at the same levels. There should be enough opportunities of employments and participation in political parties along with security and safety for women and the seat allocation for recruitments of both genders should be considered on equality grounds. More funds should be allocated to women's development in the country. Government should to make sure that women have enough access to reach any political opportunity and there should be a training programme available for their capacity building on politics. There is also a need of reforms in the police departments and judicial processes which place constraints on women from accessing justice. Women police should be trained to deal with women facing domestic violence so that women could feel safe and protected.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The world has experience various form of discrimination and over time the vulnerable group in this victimization process are the women and children. One of the discrimination and abuse is violence. In recent years awareness of the problem of violence against women has broadened from being a ‘women’s issue’ and a feminist concern to being widely acknowledged as a human rights, public health, and a development problem (Jonikaite, 2016).

Domestic violence is a global problem that affects women of all races, ages, economic statuses, and religions with statistics emphasizing the devastating effects of domestic violence on the lives of battered women. Domestic violence was once viewed as a private matter, but today domestic violence is seen as a public health issue with consequences for batterers that are enforced by the criminal justice system (Salazar, Baker, Price & Carlin. 2013).

According to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW), violence against women is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Abeya, Fantahun, Worku, 2015).

Domestic violence can be defined as “a type of repeated pattern of behaviors an abusive intimate partner uses to gain power and control over another” (Brodwin & Siu, 2017)

and as “repeated or frequent moderate acts of violence, sexual coercion through threats of violence or rape, any act of violence that causes injury no matter how infrequent” (Bograd & Mederos, 1999). The disaster caused by this act of violence is enormous as Grovert (2014) asserted that in 2001, domestic violence made up twenty percent of all non-fatal violence against adult women - around 600,000 crimes. Matthews, (2014) opined that in 2000, about 1200 women were killed by an intimate partner. This number made up about 33 percent of female murder victims

In all these it shows that domestic violence is but a humane treatment on a particular gender, age or race. Studies reveal that in European countries, domestic violence is a major cause of death and disability for women ages 16 to 44 years and accounts for more deaths than cancer or traffic accidents (US department of Justice, 2010).

In 2005, a study carried out by World Health Organization (WHO, 2018) on women's health and domestic violence, observed that the rates of domestic violence incidents in 10 countries revealed that 72% of Ethiopian women experienced violence with an intimate partner, followed by women from Peru, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Thailand, Samoa, Brazil, Namibia, Serbia, and Japan. Women who experience domestic violence are more likely to experience health consequences, with 80% more likely to have a stroke, 70% more likely to have heart disease, 60% more likely to have asthma, and 70% more likely to drink heavily than women who have not experienced intimate partner abuse (Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2008).

In addition, domestic violence is linked to a range of reproductive health issues, including but not limited to sexually transmitted disease and HIV transmission, miscarriages, and unsafe sexual behaviour (Davis, 2013). In support of this view a study conducted by Thomas, Joshi, Wittenberg, and McCloskey (2008) explored how domestic violence affects the health of women who are victims and included the battered woman's description of how intimate partner violence affected their health. The study consisted of 40 women in eight focus groups, ranging in age from 18 to 64 years. The racial makeup was 79% African American, 8% White, 5% Latina, and 8% multiracial or ethnic. Of the 40 participants, 38 described experiencing physical or sexual abuse within the past year, and two participants described experiencing physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime.

The aftermath effect of this oppressive act and action has a psychological undertone on the women as stated earlier and in the Nigeria context where male dominance is highly recognized because of its cultural backing there are tendency that an unending foresight to this anomalies is not eminent (Obarisiagbon & Alenkhe, 2014). Women in Nigeria over the years could not be equated with their male counterpart as the act of marginalization, segregation and social participation is limited mostly to the opposite sex (Sadoh, Alenkhe & Agbontaen-Eghafona, 2013). And the aftermath impact has a diehard consequence on the health of the individual and other aspect of the individual social, emotional and mental state.

It is a general known fact that violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund, Nigeria (1998) noted that any violence meted out to women has a direct effect on their health. Previous statistics shows that roughly

60 million women who should have been alive die as a result of a spectrum of violence of various kind. However, only about half of all incidents of intimate violence experienced by women are reported to the police (Wallace & Seymour, 1999). In the light of these the study examines the impact of domestic violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Every fourth Nigerian woman suffers domestic violence in her lifetime, claims report by a consultant psychiatrist, (Ejiofor, 2015). Ejiofor, (2015) told that the worst forms of domestic violence are rape and homicide, and that domestic violence is one of the major social issues in Nigeria. Battering and trafficking are other grave forms of abuse experienced by Nigerian girls and women. Battered women suffer physical and mental problems as a result of domestic violence. Ejiofor further added that 25 per cent of women in Nigeria have to go through ordeal of domestic violence. The worst forms of them are battering, trafficking, rape and homicide, report claims.

According to 2013 global review of available data, 35 per cent of Women Worldwide has experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. It is a great concern that in most underdeveloped countries in the world with special reference to Bangladesh, that Violence against Women are rated second in the world, with 47 percent of the women being assaulted by men (Mahmood, 2004).

The Nigeria law on domestic violence is clearly inadequate, particularly regarding violence against women e.g. wife beating (Nworah, 2009). Resent survey has shown that a higher percentage of violence against women happen among women of lower social status,

that is the uneducated. Due to their level of exposure they accept whatever is meted out to them by their male partners and accept this gender based violence as a norm (Nworah, 2009).

However, there are dearth's in statistics on the aftermath impact of domestic violence in Nigeria; hence the study seeks to examine the impact of domestic violence on women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State of Edo state.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the implication of domestic violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State. Other specific objectives include:

1. To determine the causes of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.
2. To find out the socio-economic impact of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.
3. To ascertain the socio-cultural impact of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.
4. To find out the role of social workers in curbing the incidence of domestic violence in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.

1.4 Research Question

1. What are the causes of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State?
2. What are the socio-economic impact of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State?

3. What are the socio-cultural impact of violence against women in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State?
4. What is the role of social workers in curbing the incidence of domestic violence in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is of great importance to all, especially those that have the concern of family development at heart. The study will further increase our knowledge on the evil of domestic violence in the society and will show the ills of this menace to the society. It will add to already existing literature on similar topics as it relates to violence against women and domestic violence in modern society. It will expose all to the causes and the impact of domestic violence in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State. Benin City. Finally, it will help welfare organization, NGOs and other relevant organizations to know how wide spread domestic violence is in the society.

1.6 Scope of Study

The study examines impact of domestic violence against women in Oredo Local government area, Benin City, Edo State. The scope of this study covers respondents who are within Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State and knows what domestic violence is and its effects on women. However special reference will be place on residence within the college road axis of the said community.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. **Discrimination:** **Discrimination** is the process of making unfair or prejudicial distinctions between people based on the groups, classes, or other categories to which they belong or are perceived to belong, such as race, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation
2. **Domestic:** Domestic generally means relating to someone's family, home, or home country. Domestic work is work done in the home-a domestic is someone who works in a home, such as a nanny or a maid
3. **Violence:** The meaning of violence is the use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage, or destroy.
4. **Force:** Force is defined as any influence that can change the position, speed, and state of an object. In otherword, force is a push or pull upon an object resulting from the object's interaction with another object.
5. **Gender:** The male sex or the female sex, especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones, or one of a range of other identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female.
6. **Physically:** Physically refers to any actions, characteristics, processes, or attributes that pertain to the body or material world as opposed to the mind or spiritual world
7. **Psychologically:** Psychologically refers to the study of behavior and mental processes, including both observable actions and hidden cognitive processes such as thinking and

feeling. It is a scientific discipline that aims to understand the complexities of human behavior and individual differences.

8. **Society:** A society is a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction or a large social group sharing the same spatial or social territory.
9. **Women:** women is defined as Married female sex or an adult female human. Prior to adulthood, one is referred to as a girl (a female child or adolescent).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Conceptual Framework

2.1.1 Concept of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been defined by the World Health Organisation - WHO (2018) as the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against women by current or former male intimate partners whilst women, men, boys and girls can be victims of domestic violence; women and girls are disproportionately affected. Obi and Ozumba (2007) stated that 70 per cent of couples experienced abuse in their families with 92 per cent of the victims being female partners and the remaining 8 per cent were male. Obviously, more women are exposed to domestic violence.

Violence in Nigeria can be said to be selective as Agnihotri (2006) opined that females can suffer from violence throughout their “life cycle” as fetuses may be aborted just because they are female, infants may be killed because they are female, girls may be neglected or subjected to various other types of abuse, adolescents may be raped, married women may be beaten, raped or killed by their husbands and widows may be neglected. The female infanticide and sex selective abortions that are caused by son preference have led to an imbalance in sex ratios characterized by millions of females.

Gender-based violence has been the experience of women worldwide which has affected their relationship in the homes, communities, places of work and largely their productivity in their various places of assignments (amnesty international, 2005). An

increasing amount of research highlights the health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic consequences of such violence (United Nations, 2006).

Violence is a universal reality that had existed in all societies and human settlement regardless of class, income, culture or educational attainment. This paper focuses on domestic violence, a form of gender-based violence, which is defined here as any act of violence resulting in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls or men, including threats of such act, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty (Loseke et al, 2005).

In Nigeria, domestic violence is widely acknowledged to be of great concern, not just from a human rights perspective but also from an economic and health perspective. Women are more at risk from this gender-based violence. There have been reports of husbands killing or maiming their wives in the media. The statistics presented by This Day (2011) newspaper are daunting. About 50% of women have been battered by their husband. Shockingly, more educated women are in this terrible situation as compared with their low income counterparts. Most of the women endure believing they have nowhere to go and in any case, believing for good reason that the law will not protect them.

McDonnel, (2003) argues that Nigerians do not talk about domestic violence “because it seems to be an acceptable part of marriage”. She found that 40% of urban women in a research conducted in Lagos and Ibadan claimed that they have been victims of domestic violence. In a study conducted in Guma and Markurdi Local Government Area of Benue state, Nigeria shows that domestic violence is a common practice that seemed to be accepted by men as normal in order to keep the woman under control. Batterers fail to see this as an act

worth bringing before the law. For instance, among the Efik of south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria, wife battering is celebrated as a sign of authority over women in marriage.

Domestic violence is the victimization of a person with whom the abuser had or has had an intimate romantic, spousal relationship. It consist of a pattern of coercive behaviors used by a competent adult to establish and maintain power and control over another competent adult. This behaviour which can alone or in combination, sporadically or continually include physical abuse, psychological/emotional abuse and emotional abuse (Gewirtz and Edleson, 2004).

Domestic abuse not only affects women but also has devastating consequences for other populations and societal institutions. Men also can be victims of abuse; children are affected by exposure to this domestic violence, and formal institutions face enormous challenges responding to domestic violence in their communities. Gender- based violence is the fate of millions of women all over the world and these are affecting their productivity both in the homes, communities and places of work (Gberevbie, Osibanjo, Adeniji and Oludayo 2014).

There are two essential elements in every domestic violence situation: the victim and the abuser have been intimately involved at some point in time and the abuser consciously chooses to use violence and other abusive tactics to gain control over victims (United Nations Secretary General's, 2006).

2.2 Causes of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can be seen from different facet, according to Uwameiye et al (2013) violence against women in Nigeria results from biological differentiation of sexes. This is because females are biologically and physiologically perceived as the weaker sex who requires considerable protection by men. They further added that the relegation of women to the second class status dates back to several centuries ago.

To Uwameiye et al (2013), another cause of gender based violence is culture. In Nigeria, there is the belief that boys are stronger than girls and so are trained to accept more strenuous tasks like hunting, shooting with bows and arrows, farming and fighting back enemies that are about to out-run their communities. While girls are stereotyped to perform simpler tasks like sweeping the rooms, scrubbing the walls and collecting firewood to cook for the family so that they can become good wives and mothers in future.

In addition, women are excluded from rigorous and traditional activities like tree climbing (e.g. palm tree) or from engaging in traditional sports like wrestling, canoeing and horse-back riding which were exclusively made for men. What was reserved for women were lighter recreational activities requiring graceful movement, or they were only allowed to watch the men and cheer them up. This cultural unequal power led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement.

Ndungu (2004) opined that the reproductive and productive roles of women often place them at the bottom of the ladder. They are mostly found in low paid jobs, which rob them of power to participate in decision making, within the political, social-economic and cultural sphere of life. This situation results in the over burdening of women with family and

domestic responsibilities while giving them no resources or political room to improve their standard of living. In some parts of Nigeria, it is known that the input of the girl child into the family income is so high that it becomes economically unwise to allow such a child to go to school.

Violence is not always caused by stress, but may be one way that some people respond to stress (Alokan, 2013). Couples in poverty may be more likely to experience domestic violence, due to increased stress and conflicts about finances and other aspects (Jewkes, 2002). Goetz (2010) opined that many cases of domestic violence against women occur due to jealousy when the spouse is either suspected of being unfaithful or is planning to leave the relationship. An evolutionary psychology explanation of such cases of domestic violence against women is that they represent to male attempts to control female reproduction and ensure sexual exclusivity for him through violence or the threat of violence.

2.1.2 Psychological Impact of Domestic Violence

Violence against women is one of the issues that persist in entire world. All kinds of violence against women cause a strong psychological impact on the victims. It is extremely important to understand the type of trauma that the victim had after experience of violence and with the correct psychological support, find the appropriate therapy. However, not all countries in the world have the same socio-cultural, economic, and political background.

According to the report from [World Health Organization \(2018\)](#), approximately 1 in 3 women, or 30%, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner. Lifetime estimates of intimate partner violence range from 20% in the Western

Pacific to 33% in the WHO African region. Furthermore, about 38% of all murders of women globally are committed by intimate partners, and 6% of women report experiencing sexual assault by someone other than a partner. Violence can change various aspects of an individual's life, including their future, daily habits, behavior, and mental well-being.

Consequences of Domestic Violence

- **Low self-esteem, guilt & shame:** People who experienced domestic violence often internalize negative messages and criticisms from their abusers, leading to a diminished sense of self-worth. They may start to believe that they are undeserving of love and respect. They believe it is all their fault because they received that abuse, and this leads to a feeling of shame, making it challenging to build new relationships or even to trust friends and family members.
- **Emotional numbness or detachment:** To protect themselves, some survivors may shut down their emotions and disconnect from their feelings to handle the strong emotions linked to the violence.
- **Anxiety and constant fear.** After experiencing domestic violence, people may live in constant fear of being abuse again. This can cause an elevated level of anxiety and hyper-vigilance.
- **Depression & Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD):** Those who have endured severe or prolonged domestic violence may develop PTSD, a condition characterized

by flashbacks, nightmares, and intense emotional reactions triggered by reminders of the trauma.

- Self-harming behaviors or thoughts of suicide.

2.1.3 Domestic Violence in Nigeria

Domestic violence is prominent in Nigeria as in other parts of Africa (Ameh, & Abdul, 2016). There is a deep cultural belief in Nigeria that it is socially acceptable to hit a woman as a disciplinary measure. Cases of Domestic violence are on the high and show no signs of reduction in Nigeria, regardless of age, tribe, religion, or even social status (Oyediran, & Isiugo-Abaniher, 2015)." The CLEEN Foundation reports 1 in every 3 respondents admitting to being a victim of domestic violence. The survey also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013. A CLEEN Foundation's 2012 National Crime and Safety Survey demonstrated that 31% of the national sample confessed to being victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence takes many forms including physical, sexual, emotional, and mental. Traditionally, domestic violence is committed against females. Common forms of violence against women in Nigeria are rape, acid attacks, molestation, wife beating, and corporal punishment (Kunnuji, 2014).

The Nigerian government has taken legal proceedings to prosecute men who abuse women in several states. There is currently a push in Nigeria for federal laws concerning domestic violence and for a stronger national response and support for domestic violence issues. Incidents of domestic violence in Nigeria include battery, beatings, torture, acid baths, rape, and consequently, death. It is, however, estimated that approximately one in every three women suffers domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence from the hands of those who claim to love and supposedly, protect them. The menace is eating deep as most of the victims

do not speak out about violations of their rights, a result of nonchalance, insensitivity, and negative response from their immediate family and society at large (Ameh & Abdul, 2016).

2.1.4 Role of Social Workers in Issues Related to Domestic Violence

The role of social worker with the process of domestic violence, forms of violence, consequences of violence, and the various ways of assisting them. More important is the continuous training of professional social worker. Thus, this training must always be updated with the government strategies regarding the provision of services in the center. The social worker must differentiate between their private lives from their profession. Thus, this should not include the views, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, sexual orientation, and personal relationships with the beneficiaries of the center. The social worker of the shelter should be fit and readily available to resolve cases and emergency situations that could endanger the woman's life inside the center. This usually occurs when the abuser, male or its user, locates the address of the shelter. Others include severely affected health cases of the beneficiary in an interpersonal conflict between the beneficiaries or beneficiary acute emotional crisis.

Social workers are influenced by feminist thought and action. Recent literature is, however, calling for a review of social work. This is on the basis of new knowledge about women and new interpretations of existing theories on prior beliefs about the roles of women in the society. Feminism is now used by some social workers as a convenient theoretical framework to study the experiences of women in society. It is also used to develop intervention strategies to change these experiences positively. Social workers should advocate for the validity and usefulness of the services provided for women in the society,

their needs, and their assessment from a feminist perspective. The feminist analysis of education, health, and employment policies provides a framework for evaluating relevant social functioning and the design and implementation of interventions. However, this intervention is used to improve, increase, or restore the functionality of individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and society. These are the core tasks of social workers in practice. Subsequently, the combination of feminism in the thoughts and actions of social workers is essential for social change; and thus, it is clearly in line with the fundamental purpose of social work and social action in improving social conditions.

2.3 Types of Domestic Violence

Aihie (2009) identified various forms of domestic violence such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, economic abuse, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. However according to Oluremi (2015) there are different forms of abuse a woman may be subjected to in the home include:

Physical Abuse: This is the use of physical force in a way that injures the victim or puts him/her at risk of being injured. It includes beating, kicking, knocking, punching, choking, and confinement. Female genital mutilation is physical abuse. Physical abuse is one of the commonest forms of abuse. Oluremi (2015) found that 83% of respondents in their study reported physical abuse. This wasn't different from the view of Aihie (2009).

Sexual Abuse: This includes all forms of sexual assaults, harassment or exploitation. It involves forcing a person to participate in sexual activity, using a child for sexual purposes including child prostitution and pornography. Marital rape is a form of sexual abuse, but

unfortunately; many women regard this as a part of marriage. This was observed among Asian women who tend to believe that marriage offers their husbands an unlimited access to their bodies. (Bhandari & Diebold, 2010).

Neglect: This includes failure to provide for dependents who may be adults or children, denying family members food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and protection from harm or a sense of being loved and valued (Aihie, 2009). Neglect has been observed as one of the most common form of abuse faced by the elderly especially, the women (Asogwa & Igbokwe, 2010).

Economic Abuse: This includes stealing from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for essential things like food and medical treatment, manipulating or exploiting family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his/he choice of occupation.

Spiritual Abuse: This includes preventing a person from engaging in his/her spiritual or religious practices or using one's religious belief to manipulate, dominate or control him/her.

Emotional Abuse: This includes threatening a person or his or her possession or harming a person's sense of self-worth by putting him/her at risk of serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Shouting at a partner which was found to be the most common abuse by Oluremi (2015) is included. Also included in emotional abuse are name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demand, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to violence.

2.4 Effects of Domestic Violence on Women

- Some emotional and behavioural problems that can result due to domestic violence include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in attitude (Alokan, 2013). Additionally, assaulted mothers are more likely to exhibit symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Lehmann, 1995).
- Physical Effect: Bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations and internal bleeding are some of the acute effects of a domestic violence incident that require medical attention and hospitalization (Alokan, 2013). Some chronic health conditions that have been linked to victims of domestic violence are arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome (Berrios, 1991). Victims who are pregnant during a domestic violence relationship experience greater risk of miscarriage, pre-term labour, and injury to or death of the foetus (Alokan, 2013)
- Psychological Effect: Among victims who are still living with their perpetrators, high amounts of stress, fear and anxiety are commonly reported. Depression is also common, as victims are made to feel guilty for ‘provoking’ the abuse and are frequently subjected to intense criticism. It is reported that 60% of victims meet the diagnostic criteria for depression, either during or after termination of the relationship, and have a greatly increased risk of suicidality (Barnett, 2001). The most commonly referenced psychological effect of domestic violence is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PSTD). In Alokan, (2013) study, it was observed that PSTD (as experienced by victims) is characterized by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse. These symptoms are

generally experienced for a long span of time after the victim has left the dangerous situation. Many researchers state that PTSD is possibly the best diagnosis for those suffering from psychological effect of domestic violence, as it accounts for the variety of symptoms commonly experienced by victims of trauma.

- Long-term Effect: Domestic violence can trigger many different responses in victims, all of which are very relevant for a professional working with a victim. Major consequences of domestic violence victimization include psychological/mental health issues and chronic physical health problems. A victim's overwhelming lack of resources can lead to homelessness and poverty.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

The social learning theory will be used in elucidating the impact of domestic violence among women in general.

Social Learning Theory links Domestic Violence to individual experience and exposure to violence. It also establishes a relationship among; the Personality Characteristics, Psychopathology, Theories and the Biological Theory (Jasinski, 2001). This is necessitated as all fall within the intra-individual theories. People who engage in the practice of domestic violence do so because of some inherent characteristics which could be as a result of their experience and exposure to violence or some personality disorder (physiopathology). Others are known to engage in domestic violence largely due to the process of natural selection. For example, men violate women as an extreme response to the biological role of men to reproduce.

In associating the social learning theory with domestic violence, Abane (1997) said, the social psychological theories also has a say in its operation as it posits that the interaction between an individual with other individuals, groups and organizations provoke violence. The social learning theory and the role modeling theory fall within the ambit of the social psychological theories. The Social-Psychological theory also includes the resource theory. The theory posits that violence is used as a resource to attain one's desires in a manner similar to the use of money status and other personal attributes.

The extent of material resources controlled by husbands and wives determine the authority each exercises over major decisions in the home and their control of marital power. Thus, violence becomes the ultimate resource which is deployed when other resources are perceived to be insufficient or have failed to obtain the desired response. Men who lack material and other resources resort to force and violence. On the other hand, women with significant resources become less willing to put up with abuse.

To Abane (1997) socio-cultural theories also explain a concept that paves way for domestic violence. The theory suggests a strong correlation between domestic violence and the social institutions and social structures in society. Economic crisis within the larger society can result in stress and frustration, thereby provoking violent behaviour, according to Tenuche (2011). "Aggression is always the result of frustration. Given the requisite conditions, an individual, whose basic desires are thwarted, and who consequently experiences profound

sense of dissatisfaction and anger is likely to react to his condition by directing aggressive behavior at what is perceived as being responsible for thwarting those desires or at a substitute.

To Tenuche, there are aftermath consequences to this act of domestic violence as there both physical bruises, internal injuries, emotional downwardness, disfiguring of the victim, serious emotional and psychological torture, victimization, emotional problems could lead to sexually transmitted infections and the spread of HIV/AIDS, and most of all lost of life.

Empirical Review

Domestic violence is a form of gender-based violence, intended at subordinating women. The global dimensions of domestic violence are of great concern, both in terms of their scope and extent. Domestic violence is perhaps the most universal, yet one of the most invisible forms of violence against women. No country or society can claim to be free of domestic violence, but the patterns and trends may vary across regions and countries.

Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women (Mahapatro, 2018).

It is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, categorically declares the Beijing platform for action. It further asserts in all societies to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and consequence of violence against women.

The World human Rights Conference in Vienna 1993 recognized violence against women as human rights violence.

According to Mahapatro (2018), defined violence against women as “any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”. (cited by Gomez, 1996). Several studies at the national and international levels have revealed the widespread nature of the violence against women. The UNIFEM Report, “A Life free from violence: It’s our Right” (1998) reveals that 34 million women are battered each year worldwide, one in six women are the victims of rape in industrialized countries and between 16 and 52 percent of women surveyed were assaulted by intimate partners. There are several forms of violence that constitute a violence of women’s right to live with dignity and self-respect. These include rape, incest, domestic violence, widow immolation, female feticide and infanticide, trafficking in women, sexual harassment, molestation, eve teasing, witch-hunting, dowry deaths, honor killings, female genital mutilation, and so on.

Mahapatro has also talked about to basic forms of violence, that is, structural and direct, structural violence arises from the dominant political, economic and social systems. Structural violence according to her is the basis of direct violence, because it influences the socialization which causes individuals to accept or inflict suffering, according to the social function they fulfill. (Larrain and Rodrigue, 1993)

In India, domestic violence was documented as a criminal offence in 1983. The offence chargeable under section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code that relates to domestic violence is any act of cruelty by a husband (or his family) towards his wife. To deal with the problem of domestic violence, our parliament has made an act, i.e. “the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. It has received the assent of president on 13-09-2005 and effective from 26-10-2006. It is an act to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family. Domestic violence has been defined under section -3 of the act, i.e “any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence.

The large number of the studies has been done on domestic violence across the world. In India, most of the studies focused on dowry-related violence and deaths (Vindhya, 2000; Waters, 1999), childlessness (Martin & Mohr 2016)) and the gender and agency dimensions of domestic violence (Parson 2020), Wife-beating (Stewart & Vigod 2017). Visaria (1999) in the study of Kheda district of Gujarat, found the most frequently reported types of violence against women were abusive language (80 percent), beating (63 percent), forcing women back to their parental home (52 percent) and threats to throw them out (51 percent). The causes for violence were related to complaints about meal preparation and childcare and economic stress.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Design

The study design for this study which was on impact of domestic violence in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, it is an explorative research, the strength of the research was based on a quantitative methods of research data collection and analysis, this include the use of structured questionnaires was administered to choose the research respondent. A simple random sampling was used in the study in getting the respondents in the study area.

3.2 Population of Study

The population of the study was made up of household members within the study location who are above 18 years of age and have adequate knowledge on the issue of domestic violence in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. They formed the principal respondents or the target population.

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample of the study involved men and women in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State Area. 150 respondents were interviewed using a cluster sampling to stratify the area of study; from this the respondents were selected using a convenient sampling method.

3.4 Instruments for Data Collection

The instrument of data collection was structured questionnaire, the questionnaire was administered to 150 respondents, with one person from any selected household. The questionnaire was made up of two sections. Section A focused on the socio-demographic characteristic of the respondents and the section B focused on the impact of domestic violence on women in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, so as to elicit needed response that was useful for the research.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The data was collected with the use of administered questionnaire and this questionnaire was administered to selected household members who are residents of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The data collected from the research instrument was analyzed using the descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Having discussed relevant issues and established a credible empirical framework that underpins the focus of the study, we present the following results obtained from utilizing the various methodological investigations stated in this chapter.

A total of 150 questionnaires were administered out strictly to male and female respondents of which the researcher was able to retrieve all the instruments used and this represent 100% participation of the respondents based on the distributed questionnaire. Hence, the data analysis was conducted using simple percentage (%) statistical techniques to test the frequency of the personal data of the respondents and the frequencies of their responses to the research questions. This was to ensure simplicity and clarity of the responses.

TABLE 1: SEX OF RESPONDENTS

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Male	39	26
Female	111	74
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 1 above, the result shows the sex of the respondents. The result therefore revealed that there were more females than males, as males accounted for 26% of the population while females accounted for 74% of the population.

TABLE 2: AGE OF RESPONDENTS

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20years	45	30
21-30years	98	65.3
31-40years	5	3.3
41 & above	2	1.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 2 above, the result shows the age of the respondents. The result therefore revealed that respondents who were below 20 years accounted for 30% of the population, respondents who were between 21 to 30 years accounted for 65.3% of the population, respondents who were between 31 to 40 years accounted for 3.3.% of the population, respondents who were between 41 years and above accounted for 1.3% of the population. This shows that the respondents who were between 21 to 30 years accounted for more than half of the population.

TABLE 3: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Single	141	94
Married	6	4
Separated	2	1.3
Never married	1	0.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 3 above, the result shows the marital status of the respondents. 94% of the respondents were single, 4% were married, and 1.3% of the respondent were separated, while 0.7% have never been married.

TABLE 4: RELIGION OF RESPONDENTS

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	143	95.3
Muslim	6	4
African tradition religion	1	0.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 4 above, the result shows the religion of the respondents. 95.3% of the respondents were Christians, 4% of the respondents were Muslims and 1.3% of the respondents belonged to African traditional religion.

TABLE 5: OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENT

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Civil servant	13	8.7
Technician	3	2
Trader	6	4
Students	128	85.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 5 above, the result shows the occupation of the respondents. 8.7% of the respondents were Civil servants, 2% of the respondents were technicians, 4% of the respondents were traders and 85.3% were students.

TABLE 6: EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	3	2
Primary education	3	2
Secondary education	4	2.7
Tertiary education	140	93.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 6 above, the result shows the educational level of the respondents. 2% of the respondents had no formal education, 2% of the respondents had primary education, and 2.7% of the respondents had secondary school education while 93.3% had tertiary education.

SECTION B: IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This section examines impact of domestic violence against women in Egor Local Government Area Section B will be analyzed using the objectives of the study in drawing the various tables and interpreting the responses gotten from the respondents.

TABLE 7: Do you know what domestic violence is?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	140	93.3
No	10	6.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 7 above, the result shows that 93.3% of the respondents knew what domestic violence means while 6.7% of the respondents did not know what domestic violence means, irrespective of their age, sex, and gender.

TABLE 8: Have you heard of its occurrence before?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	133	88.7
No	17	11.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 8 above, the result shows that 88.7% of the respondents agreed that they have heard of the occurrence of domestic violence while 11.3% are of the view that they haven't heard of its occurrence.

TABLE 9: have you experienced any form of domestic violence before?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	19.3
No	121	80.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 9 above, the result shows that 19.3% of the respondents affirmed that they have experienced some form of domestic violence while 80.7% had not experienced any form of domestic violence.

TABLE 10: If yes, what form of violence have you experienced?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Physical violence	31	20.7
Missing	119	79.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 10 above, the result shows that 20.7% of the respondents affirmed that they have experienced forms of physical violence such as: while 79.3% of the respondent did not provide an answer to this question.

TABLE 11: what do you suggest are the likely causes of domestic violence?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Gender inequality	30	20
Missing	120	80
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 11 above, the result shows that 20% of the respondent suggested that gender inequality (superiority of male sex over females) is a cause of domestic violence while 80% of the respondent did not provide an answer to this question.

TABLE 12: Does domestic violence against women reduce the participation of women in the society?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	88	58.7
No	57	38
Missing	5	3.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 12 above, the result shows that 58.7% of the respondents agreed that domestic violence against women reduces the participation of women in the society, 38% of the respondent disagreed while 3.3% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

Table 13: If yes, How?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Violence Reduces participation resulting to inferiority complex	37	24.7
Violence Reduces participation resulting to low self esteem	52	34.7
Missing	61	40.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 13 above, the result shows that 24.7% of the respondents suggested that violence against women reduces participation resulting to inferiority complex among women, while 34.7% of the respondents suggested that violence against women reduces participation in the society as a result of low self-esteem amongst women due to violence they must have experienced.

TABLE 14: Does an individual culture expose them to domestic violence?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	61	40.7
No	89	59.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 14 above, the result shows that 40.7% of the respondents agreed that an individual culture exposes them to domestic violence while 59.3% of the respondents disagreed.

TABLE 15: If yes how?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Stereotyping	57	38
Missing	93	62
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 15 above, the result shows that 38% of the respondents were of the view that stereotyping (preference and dominance of the male sex over the female sex) which is present in some culture is a reason which exposes women to domestic violence while 62% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

TABLE 16: Do you think domestic violence affects the level of education and marital status of women?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	106	70.7
No	44	29.3
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 16 above, the result shows that 70.7% of the respondents agreed that domestic violence affects the level of education and marital status of women while 29.3% of the respondents disagreed.

TABLE 17: Do you think violence has a socio- economic impact on women in Oredo?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	113	75.3
No	36	24.0
Missing	1	0.1
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 17 above, the result shows that 75.3% of the respondents agreed that violence has a socio-economic impact on the women in Egor, 24% disagreed that violence has a socio-economic impact on the women in Egor while 0.7% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

TABLE 18: Do you think violence has a socio- psychological effect on women?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	143	95.3
No	7	4.7
Total	150	100

Source: Fieldwork 2023

From the table 18 above, the result shows that 95.3% of the respondents agreed that violence has a socio-psychological effect on women, while 4.7% disagreed that violence has a socio-psychological effect on women.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

From the table 7 above, it was revealed that 93.3% of the respondents knew what domestic violence means while 6.7% of the respondents did not know what domestic violence means, irrespective of their age, sex, and gender.

From the table 8 above, it was revealed that 88.7% of the respondents agreed that they have heard of the occurrence of domestic violence while 11.3% are of the view that they haven't heard of its occurrence.

From the table 9 above, it was revealed that 19.3% of the respondents affirmed that they have experienced some form of domestic violence while 80.7% had not experienced any form of domestic violence.

From the table 10 above, it was revealed that 20.7% of the respondents affirmed that they have experienced forms of physical violence such as: while 79.3% of the respondent did not provide an answer to this question.

From the table 11 above, it was revealed that 20% of the respondent suggested that gender inequality (superiority of male sex over females) is a cause of domestic violence while 80% of the respondent did not provide an answer to this question.

From the table 12 above, it was revealed that 58.7% of the respondents agreed that domestic violence against women reduces the participation of women in the society, 38% of the respondent disagreed while 3.3% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

From the table 13 above, it was revealed that 24.7% of the respondents suggested that violence against women reduces participation resulting to inferiority complex among women, while 34.7% of the respondents suggested that violence against women reduces participation in the society as a result of low self-esteem amongst women due to violence they must have experienced.

From the table 14 above, it was revealed that 40.7% of the respondents agreed that an individual culture exposes them to domestic violence while 59.3% of the respondents disagreed.

From the table 15 above, it was revealed that 38% of the respondents were of the view that stereotyping (preference and dominance of the male sex over the female sex) which is

present in some culture is a reason which exposes women to domestic violence while 62% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

From the table 16 above, it was revealed that 70.7% of the respondents agreed that domestic violence affects the level of education and marital status of women while 29.3% of the respondents disagreed.

From the table 17 above, it was revealed that 75.3% of the respondents agreed that violence has a socio-economic impact on the women in Oredo local government area, 24% disagreed that violence has a socio-economic impact on the women in Oredo local government area, while 0.7% of the respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

From the table 18 above, it was revealed that 95.3% of the respondents agreed that violence has a socio-psychological effect on women, while 4.7% disagreed that violence has a socio-psychological effect on women.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.4 Summary

Research conducted over the years by the World Health Organization and others, reveals that violence against women is a much more serious and common problem than previously suspected. It is estimated that one out of three women worldwide has been raped, beaten or abused. While violence against women occurs in all cultures and societies, its frequency varies across countries. Societies that stress the importance of traditional patriarchal practices which reinforce unequal power relations between men and women and keep women in a subordinate position tend to have higher rates of violence against women. Rates tend to be higher in societies in which women are socially regulated or secluded in the home, excluded from participation in the economic labour market and restricted from owning and inheriting property. It is more prevalent where there are restrictive divorce laws, a lack of victim support services and no legislation that effectively protects female victims and punishes offenders. Violence against women is a consequence of gender inequality, and it prevents women from fully advancing in society.

Almost all the respondents agreed that they know what domestic violence is all about and a small percentage affirmed that they have experienced some form of physical violence such as: bartering, men beating their wives etc. While a high percentage of the respondents agreed that domestic violence reduces the level of participation among women in the society,

also majority of the respondents agreed that domestic violence has a socio-psychological effect on women as well as it affects the level of education and marital status of women.

Conclusively, more than half of the respondents feel that domestic violence has a socio-economic implication in the society.

5.5 Conclusion

Domestic violence is prevalent in various nations at an alarming rate. Women are the sufferers and are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their home by partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their brothers and parents. The factors associated with domestic violence in the country are low-economic status of women, lack of awareness about women rights, lack of education, falsified beliefs, imbalanced empowerment issues between males and females, male dominant social structure and lack of support from the government. Integrated supportive services, legal intervention and redress should be made available in situations of domestic violence. Support and help for women to rebuild and recover their lives after violence, should be a part of the intervention strategy, including counseling, relocation, credit support and employment. In order to prevent women from domestic violence and provide them medical as well as judicial and legal support, new plans and interventional maps should be made in the societies in collaboration with health team members, religious and societal leaders, NGOs, police department and people from other similar groups. This strategy implementation should be enforced.

5.6 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions stated above, the following are the recommendations from the study for controlling

- There is a need of recognition at the national level of the issue and consistent follow-up should be made mandatory.
- There should be enough educational programs in all societies and cultures, both for women and men at the same levels.
- There should be enough opportunities of employments and participation in political parties along with security and safety for women and the seat allocation for recruitments of both genders should be considered on equality grounds. More funds should be allocated to women's development in the country.
- Government should make it compulsory to incorporate the programme in all health care facilities in the nation for proper screening of all types of domestic violence and abuse. Adequate emergency treatments with rehabilitative measures should be provided. All health professionals should be made aware of domestic violence, its factors, possible treatment and moreover the preventive measures. Along with medical facility, government also can have crisis centers for violated women in the main health care centers like Rural Health Centers (RHC), Basic Health Unites (BHU) and tertiary hospitals throughout the country. Furthermore, specialized health care professionals should be introduced in the crisis centers who could easily handle any case. All of the

facilities should be easily accessible to all women in any setting throughout the country.

- Awareness programmes should be conducted for both women and men. It should be done by using the resources like nurses, doctors and psychologists, working under governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This could easily be done either by direct or indirect teaching. The direct methods would include one to one teaching, counseling, or group based teaching. Indirect methods would involve the use of media, pamphlets, role plays, drama and talk shows.
- There should be religious definitions of the basic rights of women like autonomy and freedom in the nation on federal levels and the government needs to evaluate all of the basic rights of women. For this a central committee can be made which should include religious leaders, and scholars who can consensually define the rights of women in the lights of Islamic teaching and literature. But, for this the other ethnic and minority religious groups should be considered when finalizing any package for basic rights of women. Government should also ensure that every citizen of the country is following the main themes defined by the religious committee.
- Government should to make sure that women have enough access to reach any political opportunity and there should be a training programme available for their capacity building on politics.
- There is also a need of reforms in the police departments and judicial processes which place constraints on women from accessing justice. Women police should be trained to

deal with women facing domestic violence so that women could feel safe and protected. Indeed the presence of a nurse or doctor in the police department team would facilitate a pleasant environment for the sufferers.

- Alcohol production, transport and drinking should be banned or regularized in the country. Government can take help from social groups, religious leaders and even they can strengthen their law and order situation to decrease alcohol and other addictive material usage in the country.
- Government should develop recreational programs like family parks, and other entertaining places where women along with their family can enjoy and relax.

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APPENDIX

Department of Social Work,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Benin,
Benin City.

Dear Respondent,

APPEAL FOR THE COMPLETION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a 500 level student of the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences. I am conducting a research on “**IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE.**”. I request that you please assist as one of my respondents by providing information on the following questions. This research is strictly for academic purpose and the information supplied will be treated strictly as confidential.

Please tick (√) in the column that best suit your opinion.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

Please tick () in the box that best suit your opinion.

1. Age: Below 20 (), 21-30yrs (), 31-40yrs (), 41 and above ()
2. Marital status: single () Married () Separated (), Never Married (), Divorced (), Widowed ()
3. Religion: Christianity (), Muslim (), African tradition (), Others (specify) _____
4. Occupation: Civil servant (), Technician (), Trader (), Others (specify) _____
5. Educational Level: No formal Education (), Primary education (), Secondary education (), Tertiary education ()

SECTION B:

6. Do you know what domestic violence is? Yes (), No ()
7. Have you heard of its occurrence before? Yes (), No ()
8. Have you experienced any form of domestic violence before? Yes (), No ()
9. If yes, what form of Domestic violence have you experienced?
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10. What do you suggest are the likely causes of domestic violence against women in Egor?
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11. Does domestic violence against women reduces the participation of women in the society? Yes (), No ()
12. If yes how?
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13. Does an individual's culture expose them to domestic violence? Yes (), No ()
14. If yes how?
15. _____
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16. Do you think domestic violence affects the level of education and marital status of women? Yes (), No ()
17. Do you think violence has a socio-economic impact on women in Oredo? Yes (),No ()
18. Do you think violence has a psychological effect on women? Yes (), No